

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic hood comprising:

a cylindrical hood main body, the hood main body having an attachment portion which is attached in a state that it is fitted on an outer peripheral surface of an end portion of an insertion portion of an endoscope, and a protruding portion which protrudes from an end surface of the insertion portion of the endoscope in an axial direction of the insertion portion, the protruding portion having a distal, outwardly sloping surface; and

an illumination light leading portion which is provided on the protruding portion at the sloping surface and passes therethrough illumination light rays with which a part in an observation visual field range of an object lens of the endoscope is illuminated, the illumination light leading portion being arranged ~~[[at]]~~ such ~~a position~~ that a distance from an illumination lens which emits the illumination light of the endoscope is shorter than a distance from the object lens of the endoscope, the illumination light includes light rays that travel substantially parallel to the sloping surface.

2. (Original) An endoscopic hood according to claim 1, wherein the hood main body is attached in either a state that it can be attached/detached to/from the outer peripheral surface of the end portion or a fixed state.

3. (Original) An endoscopic hood according to claim 1, wherein the illumination light leading portion has a concave portion formed by notching the end portion of the protruding portion.

4. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic hood comprising:

a cylindrical hood main body, the hood main body having an attachment portion which is attached in a state that it is fitted on an outer peripheral surface of an end portion of an insertion

portion of an endoscope, and a protruding portion which protrudes from an end surface of the insertion portion of the endoscope in an axial direction of the insertion portion; and

an illumination light leading portion which is provided on the protruding portion and passes therethrough illumination light rays with which a part in an observation visual field range of an object lens of the endoscope is illuminated, the illumination light leading portion being arranged at such a position that a distance from an illumination lens which emits the illumination light of the endoscope is shorter than a distance from the object lens of the endoscope.

~~An endoscopic hood according to claim 1~~, wherein the illumination light leading portion has at least one hole formed on a circumferential wall surface of the protruding portion.

5. (Original) An endoscopic hood according to claim 4, wherein the protruding portion is set at substantially the same angle as an outgoing radiation angle of the illumination light outgoing from the illumination lens.

6. (Original) An endoscopic hood according to claim 3, wherein the protruding portion is molded at substantially the same angle as an outgoing radiation angle of the illumination light outgoing from the illumination lens.

7. (Original) An endoscopic hood according to claim 1, wherein the protruding portion has an end portion molded into such a shape as that it does not enter an observation image of the endoscope.

8. (New) An endoscopic hood comprising:
a cylindrical hood main body, the hood main body having an attachment portion which is attached in a state that it is fitted on an outer peripheral surface of an end portion of an insertion portion of an endoscope, and a protruding portion which protrudes from an end surface of the insertion portion of the endoscope in an axial direction of the insertion portion; and
an illumination light leading portion which is provided on a part of the protruding portion positioned to block irradiation of illumination light to an observation visual field range of the

endoscope, the illumination light leading portion being provided to irradiate illumination light to at least one part of the observation visual field range in which irradiation of the illumination light is blocked by the part of the protruding portion.

9. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 8, wherein the illumination light leading portion has a concave portion on the part of the protruding portion, the concave portion being formed by notching the end portion of the protruding portion.

10. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 8, wherein the illumination light leading portion has at least one hole formed on a circumferential wall surface of the part of the protruding portion.

11. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 8, wherein the protruding portion is substantially cylindrical.

12. (New) The endoscopic hood according the claim 11, wherein the substantially cylindrical protruding portion is formed continuously in a circumferential direction thereof.

13. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 11, wherein the protruding portion is formed to have substantially the same inside diameter at an end portion and a base end portion.

14. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 11, wherein the illumination light leading portion includes:

a bending portion formed on an end of the protruding portion so that the inner periphery surface of the protruding portion is bent outwardly from a center toward a diameter direction; and

a sloping surface set at substantially the same angle as the outgoing radiation angle of the illumination light outgoing from the illumination lens.

15. (New) An endoscope hood comprising:
a cylindrical protruding portion which protrudes from an end surface of the insertion portion of the endoscope toward a direction of the observation visual field of the endoscope,
an illumination light leading portion which is provided on a part of the protruding portion which protrudes to block irradiation of illumination light to an observation visual field range of the endoscope positioned outside the diameter direction of the protruding portion, the illumination light leading portion being formed to irradiate illumination light to at least one part of the observation visual field range.

16. (New) The endoscopic hood according the claim 15, wherein the illumination light leading portion has a concave portion which is formed on the part of the protruding portion by notching the end portion of the protruding portion to irradiate the illumination light to at least one part of the observation visual field range of the endoscope positioned outside the diameter direction of the protruding portion.

17. (New) The endoscopic hood according the claim 15, wherein the protruding portion is substantially cylindrical.

18. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 17, wherein the protruding portion is formed continuously and substantially along an outer peripheral surface of the end portion of the insertion portion of the endoscope.

19. (New) The endoscopic hood according to claim 17, wherein the protruding portion is formed to have substantially the same inside diameter at an end portion and a base end portion.